

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER AND SCHOOL
AND FORT SAM HOUSTON
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5005

FSH Regulation
No. 115-1

9 February 1998

Climatic, Hydrological and Topographic Services
WEATHER WARNINGS

Issue of supplements to this regulation by subordinate commanders is prohibited, unless specifically approved by the the Commander, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston.

1. **PURPOSE.** To establish policies, procedures and responsibilities for receiving and disseminating weather warnings received from the weather station, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.

2. **APPLICABILITY.** This regulation is applicable to all commands assigned or attached to Fort Sam Houston (FSH), to include all tenant units.

3. **REFERENCES.**

- a. AR 385-40, Accident Reporting and Records.
- b. AR 335-15, Management Information Control System.
- c. AR 190-40, Serious Incident Report.

4. **GENERAL.**

a. Weather warnings provide a forecast of weather conditions hazardous to personnel, installations, equipment or operations, and permit measures to be taken in order to minimize possible injury and damage.

b. Weather warnings are issued at any time when one or more of the established criteria are expected to occur. Each warning is issued for a definite period of time and pertains to a 12 mile radius from Kelly Air Force Base, including Martindale, Army Air Field (AAF).

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

a. Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison (USAG), FSH, is responsible for the dissemination of weather warnings to assigned units, selected activities, and all tenant organizations at FSH, Charles L. Kelly Heliport, Camp Bullis and Martindale AAF. The Plans and Operations Division, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMSEC) has staff responsibility for policies and procedures regarding the receipt and dissemination of weather warnings.

b. Each tenant organization/activity is responsible for establishing procedures for the dissemination of weather warnings to their subordinate elements.

6. **POLICIES.** Headquarters, USAG, FSH, will relay weather warnings based on the following criteria:

<u>WEATHER WARNINGS</u>	<u>LEAD TIME</u>
a. Surface winds 35-49 knots	1 hour
b. Surface winds 50 knots or greater	2 hours
c. Hail 1/2" or greater	1 hour
d. Tornadoes	Imminent
e. Hurricane conditions 4,3,2,1	72, 48, 24, and 12 hours, respectively
f. Hard freeze (20 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or less	NLT 1500 hours day prior
g. Heavy snow (2" or more in 12 hours)	1
h. Freezing precipitation or sleet	1

7 PROCEDURES.

a. **Duty Hours.** Personnel on duty at Charles L. Kelly Heliport will telephonically advise the Plans and Operations Division, Emergency Operations Center (EOC), DPTMSEC, of any NUMBERED weather warnings meeting the criteria in paragraph 6. Normally all numbered weather warnings meet the criteria indicated. Emergency operations center personnel will disseminate these warnings to organizations/activities via the FSH Emergency Notification System (DIALOGIC).

b. Non-Duty Hours. On duty personnel at Charles L. Kelly Heliport will telephonically advise the USAG, FSH SDO/SDNCO, telephone 221-2810, of any NUMBERED weather warnings meeting the criteria in paragraph 6. Normally all numbered weather warnings meet the criteria indicated. The SDO/SDNCO will notify the Director, DPTMSEC, who will provide all organizations/activities an emergency announcement via the FSH DIALOGIC.

c. Weather Alerts. When weather alerts are issued for Bexar County or any of the 7 adjacent counties, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office, San Antonio, activates a tone signal to activate tone alert equipped weather radio receivers. The NOAA weather radio is broadcasting on 162.550 MHZ in the San Antonio area. The following weather conditions will result in a weather alert being issued:

(1) Dust Storm Warning - Visibility less than 1/2 mile and winds 30 miles per hour (mph) or higher.

(2) Lake Wind Warning - Sustained winds of 25 mph or higher over lakes or frequent gusts of winds over 25 mph.

(3) Winter Storm Warning - Heavy snow, freezing rain, sleet, strong winds and/or unusual cold expected in 12 hours or less.

(4) Blizzard-Warning - Visibility frequently below 1/4 mile, winds of 15 mph or greater, snow and blowing snow.

(5) Severe Blizzard Warning - Visibility frequently zero, wind of 45 mph or greater, snow and blowing snow, temperature 10 degrees F or lower.

(6) Freeze Warning - Temperature of 32 degrees F or lower expected overnight.

(7) Frost Warning - Frost expected overnight in growing season

(8) Heavy Snow Warning - 4 inches or more of snow in 12 hours, or 6 inches or more in 24 hours.

(9) Ice or Freeze Rain Warning - Heavy ice accumulation.

(10) Sleet Warning - Heavy accumulation of sleet expected

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(11) Coastal Flood Warning - Flooding of low coastal areas due to high tides or surf.

(12) Hurricane Watch - Possible threat of hurricane conditions after 24 hours.

(13) Winter Storm Watch - Same as equivalent warning, except conditions not expected for 12 hours.

(14) Coastal Flood Watch - Same as equivalent warning, except conditions not expected for 12 hours.

(15) Stockmans Advisory - Adverse conditions for cattle, 35 degrees F and 15 mph winds, or 45 degrees F and 25 mph winds, both snow and rain.

(16) Travelers Advisory - Snow, sleet, freezing precipitation, fog, dust, wind or other hazards, within 12 hours but below warning criteria.

NOTE: All of the above weather conditions may not be applicable to the San Antonio area but are listed as NOAA's criteria for issuing weather alerts.

d. Tornado Warnings. The Plans and Operations Division, DPTMSEC, will notify all commands and tenant activities on the installation when tornadoes are reported as imminent, using the FSH DIALOGIC. Personnel at the Canyon Lake Recreation Area will make arrangements to receive weather warning support from Air Force personnel at Canyon Lake. The Canyon Lake point warning issued by the Air force Global Weather Center (AFGWC) is passed from Randolph AFB to Air Force personnel at Canyon Lake.

8. REPORTS

a. Any reportable accidents caused by extreme weather conditions will be reported in accordance with AR 385-40.

b. A weather damage report will be submitted whenever one or more of the following events occur as a result of weather conditions. These reports will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the weather warning criteria and lead times:

(1) If there is a question as to the adequacy of the weather warning service.

(2) If property damage in any unit, offices or agency occurs, amounting to \$500.00 or more.

If damage occurs to parked aircraft.

If significant injuries occur to personnel.

c. Damage reports will contain the following information:

(1) Date, time and place of damage or injury.

Nature and extent of injury or damage.

(3) Date and time weather warning was received or a statement that no weather warning was received.

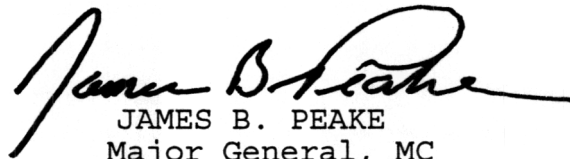
(4) Complete text of weather warning received, if appropriate.

(5) Nature and extent of protective measures taken

(6) Any other pertinent information

d. Damage reports will be submitted to the Commander, USAG, ATTN: MCGA-PTM-PO, within 3 working days after the injury or damage occurs. (RCS Exempt: para 5-2c(4), AR 335-15). This damage report is in addition to the requirement to submit Serious Incident Reports (SIR) IAW AR 190-40. Accident report if applicable, will be submitted IAW AR 385-40.

The proponent of this regulation is the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security, USAG. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) to the Commander, USAG, ATTN: MCGA-PTM-POM, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5002.



JAMES B. PEAKE
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